

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/038,029

Examiner

Andrew C. Flanders

Applicant(s)

KANO ET AL.

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 16 August 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5-7,9,11 and 27-29.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark R. Kendrick on 12 October 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend the claims as below:

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling parameters that modify an acoustic characteristic of a sound system to be set in an audio apparatus by performing remote control by using a remote control signal transmitter wherein said audio apparatus comprises a volatile memory storing first settings of a plurality of first parameters that modify the acoustic characteristic of the sound system, a non-volatile memory storing second settings of a plurality of second parameters that modify the acoustic characteristic of the sound system said first settings and second settings including setting of parameters for controlling switching of input of said audio system, a controlled section operating in accordance with values of said first parameters of said first settings stored in the volatile memory, a signal reception section and a control section, said method comprising:

a step of receiving a control signal transmitted by wireless transmittance from said remote control signal transmitter, wherein said remote control signal transmitter comprises a plurality of operators to which remote control codes which are different from each another are respectively allotted, and a transmitter which transmits, by wireless transmittance, a control signal which corresponds to a predetermined one of the remote control codes allotted to said operators by operating the operator of said predetermined remote control code;

a step of analyzing, in said control section, contents of the code of the control signal received by said signal reception section;

a step of storing said plurality of first parameters stored in said volatile memory when the control signal analyzed in said analyzing step indicates instruction for storing said first settings; and

a step of reading out second settings of said plurality of second parameters from said non-volatile memory when the control signal analyzed in said analyzing step indicates instruction for renewal to said second settings, and renewing said first settings of said plurality of first parameters stored in said volatile memory by said second settings of said plurality of second parameters, and modifying the acoustic characteristics of the sound system using the second parameters, whereby said controlled section operates in said accordance with values of said second settings of said plurality of second parameters which have been renewed in said volatile memory.

2. (currently amended) An audio apparatus comprising:

a volatile memory storing first settings of a plurality of first parameters that modify an acoustic characteristic of a sound system;

a non-volatile memory storing second settings of a plurality of second parameters that modify an acoustic characteristic of the sound system;

a controlled section operating in accordance with values of first parameters of said first settings stored in said volatile memory;

a signal reception section receiving a control signal transmitted by wireless transmittance from a remote controller signal transmitter, wherein said remote control transmitter comprises a plurality of operators to which remote control codes, which are different from one another, are respectively allotted, and a transmitter which transmits, by wireless transmittance, a control signal which corresponds to a predetermined one of the remote control codes allotted to said operators by operating the operator of said predetermined remote control code; and

a control section analyzing contents of the code of the control signal received by said signal reception section, storing, when the analyzed control signal indicates instruction for storing said first settings, said plurality of first parameters of said first settings stored in said volatile memory in said non-volatile memory, and reading out when the analyzed control signal indicates instruction for renewal to said second settings, said second settings of said plurality of second parameters from said non-volatile memory, ~~and~~ renewing said first settings of said plurality of first parameters stored in said volatile memory by said second settings of said plurality of second parameters and modifying the acoustic characteristics of the sound system using the

Art Unit: 2615

second parameters, whereby said controller section operates in accordance with values of said second settings of said plurality of second parameters which have been renewed in said volatile memory.

9. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a remote control signal transmitter used for remote controlling an audio apparatus, comprising:

a first operator to which a first remote control code is allotted and which is used for controlling one parameter that modifies an acoustic characteristic of a sound system set in said audio apparatus;

a second operator to which a second remote control code which is different from said first remote control code and which is used for controlling, in package, settings of a plurality of parameters that modify an acoustic characteristic of the sound system used in said audio apparatus;

a transmitter transmitting, by wireless transmittance, a first control signal corresponding to said first remote control code to said audio apparatus by operating said first operator and transmitting, by wireless transmittance, a second control signal corresponding to said second remote control code to said audio apparatus by operating said second operator;

said audio apparatus including:

a volatile memory storing first settings of a plurality of first parameters that modify an acoustic characteristic of the sound system ,

Art Unit: 2615

a non-volatile memory storing second settings of a plurality of second parameters that modify an acoustic characteristic of the sound system,

a controlled section operating in accordance with values of said first parameters of said first settings stored in said volatile memory,

a signal reception section receiving said first and second control signals transmitted by wireless transmittance from said remote control signal transmitter,

a control section analyzing contents of the code of the first control signal and, in accordance with result of the analysis, controlling one of said first parameters of said first settings stored in said volatile memory;

and analyzing contents of the code of the second control signal and, when said second control signal indicates storing of said first settings, storing, in accordance with said second control signal, said first parameters of said first settings stored in said volatile memory in said non-volatile memory, and when said second control signal indicates instruction of renewal of said second settings, reading out said second settings of said second parameters from said non-volatile memory, and renewing said first settings of said plurality of first parameters stored in said volatile memory by said second settings of said plurality of second parameters and modifying the acoustic characteristics of the sound system using the second parameters, whereby said controlled section operates in accordance with values of said second settings of said plurality of second parameters which have been renewed in said volatile memory.

Art Unit: 2615

6. An audio apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said apparatus is an audio amplifier, and the plurality of parameters include parameters pertaining to two of ~~input switching~~, surround setting, sound volume setting and/or frequency characteristics setting parameters.

Please add the following new claims:

27. (new) The method of claim 1, said first settings and said second settings including setting of parameters for controlling switching of input of said audio apparatus.

28. (new) The audio apparatus of claim 2, said first settings and said second settings including setting of parameters for controlling switching of input of said audio apparatus.

29. (new) The system of claim 9, said first settings and said second settings including setting of parameters for controlling switching of input of said audio apparatus.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The independent claims, 1, 2 and 9 are distinguished from the prior art. The current amendments and Applicant's remarks make clear the distinction between the claims and the closest prior art, Real, Girling, Schindler and Mogi. The claims are not anticipated nor made obvious by these references which are considered to be the closest prior art.

Art Unit: 2615

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew C. Flanders whose telephone number is (571) 272-7516. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571) 272-7546. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/038,029
Art Unit: 2615

Page 9

acf



SINH TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER